

Scientists sequence mitogenome of core crop pest

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Singapore: Phytophagous ladybird beetle, *Henosepilachna pusillanima* (Mulsant), synonym of *Epilachnadodecastigma* (Wiedemann), is one of the important pest species of cucurbitaceous crops in India. The complete mitochondrial genome of *H. pusillanima* has been sequenced by a team of scientists comprising Dr G T Behere, Dr D M Firake, Dr N S Azad and Dr S V Ngachan of Division of Crop Improvement (Entomology), ICAR-RC for NEH region, Umiam, Meghalaya.

The size of complete mitochondrial genome of the *H. pusillanima* was determined to be 16216-bp long and circular in nature (Fig. 1) and which has a total of 13 protein coding genes (PCGs), 22 transfer RNA (tRNA) genes, 2 ribosomal RNA (rRNA) genes and one control region (A+T-rich region). The size of control region was estimated to be 1690-bp.

The gene arrangement and orientations of assembled mitogenome were identical to the reported coleopteran insect species including predatory ladybird beetle *Coccinella septempunctata* L. The complete assembled and annotated genome has been submitted to the NCBI vide Genbank Accession Number: KJ131489. This would be the first completely sequenced coleopteran genome from the beetle subfamily Epilachninae and also the first insect mitogenome from India.